

In the claims:

1-27. (canceled)

28. (new) An antibody immunologically specific for an isolated human PD2 protein, said human PD2 protein is about 531 amino acid in length and comprises an amino terminal helix-loop-helix domain and a centrally localized nuclear transport signal and nucleotide binding site.

29. (new) The antibody of claim 28, which is a monoclonal antibody.

30. (new) The antibody of claim 28, which is a polyclonal antibody.

31. (new) A method for detecting human PD2 protein or a fragment thereof in a sample, comprising:

a) obtaining a sample suspected of containing the human PD2 protein or the fragment thereof;

b) contacting said sample with the antibody as claimed in claim 28, under conditions effective to allow the formation of immune complexes; and

c) detecting the immune complexes so formed.

32. (new) The method of claim 31, wherein said antibody is linked to a detectable label.

33. (new) The method of claim 32, wherein said detectable label is selected from the group consisting of a radioactive, a fluorescent, a biological, and an enzymatic label.

34. (new) A kit for detecting human PD2 protein or a fragment thereof in a sample, comprising the antibody as claimed in claim 28 and optionally instructional material.

35. (new) The kit of claim 33, wherein said antibody is linked to a detectable label.

36. (new) The kit of claim 35, wherein said detectable label is selected from the group consisting of a radioactive, a fluorescent, a biological, and an enzymatic label.